

Lauren, David, Carling and Rachel Peck
7531 Jarmen Circle
Bozeman, MT 59715

5 HUH
2-18-09
596

Re: In support of comprehensive sex education curriculum

February 17, 2009

Dear Members of the Committee,

Our Christian family respectfully asks that you support a comprehensive sex education curriculum. Our daughter, Carling, took such a program as an eighth grader, and has already put the lessons into practice. The tools she received through the Our Whole Lives program have given her the ability to make responsible choices and escape the tough situations she has faced as a high school student. She has stood up to her peers against alcohol, drugs and other sexually-driven situations. It is Carling's belief; the OWL program goes beyond sex education and has equipped her for life to make responsible decisions.

Comprehensive sexuality education programs stress the many advantages of postponing sexual involvement (abstinence). Our youth are in dire need of factual comprehensive information. From an early age they receive much inaccurate information from their peers and are exposed to a barrage of sexually exploitative, irresponsible messages in the media. The absence of comprehensive sexuality education in our schools does not protect our children---it only perpetuates their lack of knowledge and restricts their ability to make healthy decisions while giving the media a much louder voice. Please help our youth get the information they need to stay healthy and make wise decisions.

It is important to note, the health curriculum taught in seventh grade by her gym teacher was a failure. When I compare the present school curriculum to OWL, the differences are glaring. The school curriculum is out dated, not comprehensive and the teacher did not have the necessary training to provide a safe environment for the material presented.

Our family hopes, that the type of curriculum which Carling received through the OWL program could be widened to the public school curriculum. This would benefit not only the students, but society at-large as these youth would then put into action better decision-making and less risk-taking behaviors.

Thank you for your time.

The Peck Family
Lauren, David, Carling and Rachel